

THE FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS

The Fredericksburg Rockhounds is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit club with five goals:

1. To provide an environment in which people interested in the earth sciences and the lapidary arts can associate;
2. To contribute to and disseminate knowledge about rocks, minerals, fossils, and other geologic materials;
3. To encourage and facilitate the practice of the lapidary arts and the collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils;
4. To sponsor field trips, meetings, lectures, and displays and to organize and conduct an annual show; and
5. To participate in related activities at the local, state, and national levels.

Membership is open to all interested persons. Annual dues are \$8 for adults, \$15 for families, and \$3 for Juniors (18 years or younger).

Club members meet at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the Golden Hub Senior Center at 1009 North Lincoln Street in Fredericksburg, to socialize and to listen to presentations on a wide variety of topics related to the earth sciences and the lapidary arts. Guests are always welcome. Club members also participate in regular field trips and sponsor an annual Gem & Mineral Show during the third weekend in January at the Pavilion in Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, two miles south of Fredericksburg on State Highway 16. A monthly newsletter is posted on our website, and mailed to those who lack computer access.

Additional information about the Fredericksburg Rockhounds and a map showing the location of the Senior Center may be obtained from the Club's website at fredericksburgrockhounds.org or by mailing a request to the Fredericksburg Rockhounds, 110 North Milam, PMB 197, Fredericksburg, TX 78624

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

- The monthly meeting on the first Monday of each month
- The Annual Gem and Mineral Show during the third weekend in January
- The Annual Club Picnic on the first Monday in June
- The Annual Christmas Party on the first Monday in December

TYPICAL FORMAT OF A MONTHLY MEETING

- 6:00 p.m. Early birds gather to visit and "talk rocks"
- 7:00 p.m. Call to Order and presentation of program
- 7:45 p.m. Refreshments and socializing
- 8.00 p. m. Business Meeting
- 8 30 p. m. Pick up and go home

SHOW AND TELL/SELL TABLE

Members are encouraged to bring items of interest—self-collected or purchased. The table theme may coincide with the program of the evening. Trading stones is always fun and serves as a great "what is it?"

NEWSLETTER

Our monthly newsletter is posted on our website one week prior to the meeting, and a link to it is emailed; paper copies are sent via the regular mail to those without computer access. Members are encouraged to supply tidbits, news notes, abstracts, etc. Details for submitting newsletter items are given on its last page.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are scheduled irregularly depending on the weather and the availability of sites. They are posted on our website, and are usually announced at meetings and through special emails. Usually they're not scheduled far enough in advance to be announced in the newsletter. Members are encouraged to suggest locales of interest. Our current field trip chairperson, Frank Rowell, can be reached at frank@enchantedrocksandjewelry.com, (325) 247-1987 (home), or (325) 247-4137 (work).

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CLUB

The Fredericksburg Rockhounds has its origin as the Llano Uplift Rock Club. For two years, the Members met on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Science Room at Llano High School. In 1968, a decision was made to move the club to Fredericksburg. As might be expected, not all members found this convenient and some chose to move their memberships to the Highland Lakes Gem & Mineral Society.

The Fredericksburg Rockhounds was organized on July 15, 1968, with 65 members. The Club's Constitution was adopted by the Executive Council on October 22, 1968, and by the general membership on March 3, 1969. At first, Club members met monthly in the American Legion Hall in Fredericksburg. Annual shows were held there also; however the large crowds severely strained the resources of that facility.

The Annual Gem & Mineral Show was moved to the Pavilion at Lady Bird Municipal Park in the mid 1970s. It's interesting to note that Club members were asked to submit recommendations for the design of that facility. The Club continued to meet monthly at the American Legion Hall for a few more years before moving to Fredericksburg's Golden Hub Senior Center.

Club members during the early years were energetic and active. Almost everyone worked actively with stones in one way or another and many members attended shows sponsored by other Clubs. Individuals and couples regularly embarked on field trips to remote areas and foreign countries. Popular features at annual shows were demonstrations and exhibits by local members and members of other clubs. Some shows had 100 or more exhibits: these were grouped in categories, and prizes were awarded by designated judges or on the basis of votes by the general public.

As the years went by and original members aged, membership declined. During one bleak period in the early 1990s, eleven members passed away in one year. This devastating loss led to discussion of dissolving the Club at that time, but one of the members persuaded others to keep the Club going.

Since then, the Club has steadily increased its membership to more than 100 individuals, couples and families. There has been an almost complete turnover of the membership since its founding in 1968. Members now hail from a much wider area and their interests are often quite different than those of the founding members. However, one thing has not changed: members enjoy each others' company and love to get together to listen to interesting presentations, to converse and to eat.